

**DEPARTMENT
POLICY**

Food Assistance recipients may be issued a replacement of food that has been destroyed in a domestic misfortune or disaster and reported timely. See BAM 401E for policy regarding replacement of Bridge cards.

Limits

There is **no** limit to the number of replacements for food purchased with food assistance benefits and destroyed in a domestic misfortune or disaster.

**Client
Responsibilities**

Replacements and reauthorizations are processed **only** if the client reports the loss timely. Timely means within 10 days if the loss is due to misfortune or disaster. However, if day 10 falls on a weekend or holiday and it is reported on the next workday, it is still considered timely.

**Denial of
Replacements**

If denying a replacement, send the client a DHS-176, Client Notice, within 10 days of the client's request.

**Food Destroyed in
a Domestic
Misfortune or
Disaster**

Domestic misfortunes or disasters include events which occur through no fault of the client, such as fires, floods or electrical outages. Verify the circumstances through a collateral contact, a community agency, utility company or a home visit, and note it on the DHS-601, Food Replacement Affidavit.

Discuss with the client the amount of food lost as a result of the misfortune or disaster. Replace the amount the client states they have lost up to the value of the current month's allotment. The food does **not** have to come from the current month, however the client must complete the DHS-601 describing the loss. Replacement cannot exceed the current month's benefit.

When replacing food lost, use the **Request Cash/FAP/SSP Manual Issuance** screen in Bridges.

Note: If FNS has declared a disaster, the group may receive either disaster benefits or replacement of food, but **not** both.

EXHIBIT

Replacement Circumstances ^a	When Client Must Request	Limit on Replacements ^b	Specialist Time Period	Forms & Screens	Follow-Up
1. Food of current participant destroyed in a domestic misfortune or disaster.	Within 10 days of the misfortune or disaster. Or the next workday if day 10 falls on a weekend or holiday.	None. Disaster must be verified. Not to exceed eligible group's monthly allotment.	Within 10 days of the request, or within 2 working days of receipt of the signed DHS-601, whichever is later.	Request Cash/ FAP/ SSP Manual Issuance screen.	None. Note: Cannot receive both a replacement and FSN-declared disaster allotment.

a. If a circumstance does not fit those described on the chart a replacement is **not** allowed.

b. If a replacement is denied, the group must be informed via the DHS-176, Client Notice.

LEGAL BASE

FAP

7 CFR 274.6

7 CFR 274.12